



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

600 Southeast Third Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • Office: 754-321-2600 • Fax: 754-321-2701

ROBERT W. RUNCIE
Superintendent of Schools

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Broward County, Florida**

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December 12, 2018

Dear Commission Chair Sheriff Gualtieri,

I am writing you to provide follow-up information to my testimony before the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission on November 15, 2018. Based on the information released to the public during the Commission meeting in November, and the investigatory information provided subsequent to that meeting to Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), I have initiated several concurrent actions. These actions include:

- On November 26, 2018, four staff members who were on site during the tragedy were administratively reassigned until a further investigation focused on the response to the shooting, and the communication of the emergency code status to the campus community during the event, is completed.
- On December 7, 2018, BCPS received the Phase 2 reports from Safe Havens referenced in my testimony. These reports provide detailed reviews of the safety and security status and risks at each of our educational locations. Developed by site visits, interviews, and field observations during school operations these reports will inform the improvement of safety and security for all BCPS facilities.
- On December 11, 2018, a new "Safer Spaces Policy", (A.K.A. "Hard Corners Policy) numbered Policy 2150, was brought to the School Board of Broward County (SBBC) for adoption. This policy was developed after reviewing the work of the Commission and in conjunction with best practices reviewed from other institutions.
- On December 11, 2018, a new "Emergency Codes Policy", numbered Policy 2120, was brought to the School Board of Broward County for adoption. This policy will establish expectations on training for, and compliance with, emergency codes at the highest level within the District. This policy will elevate the procedure that "any staff member may initiate a Code Red Lockdown" to a policy level.
- Broward County Public Schools is working closely with the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) to provide live video feed from BCPS school cameras to the BSO during periods of an elevated threat level. Attorneys for the District are working with attorneys with BSO to finalize an agreement within the next two weeks and will be brought forward

for formal approval by the respective agencies in early 2019. This agreement also clarifies the procedures for BSO to access any recorded images.

BCPS has already undertaken several changes which were informed by the Commission's investigative processes and discussion. I would like to highlight the following:

- School-based administrators were retrained on the Discipline Matrix and related disciplinary procedures. BCPS committees continue to review the Discipline Matrix for recommendations for policy changes to be made to the SBBC.
- The Collaborative Agreement on School Discipline has been modified to address concerns about law enforcement awareness and involvement. It is the Superintendent's intent to meet with law enforcement officials throughout the county to improve relationships and collaboration and alignment on policies, protocols, and information sharing. Additionally, the agreement has been modified to ensure closer collaboration with Broward Behavioral Health as a primary community-based mental health support provider.
- Trainings for school-based administrators on the composition of, and procedures for, Threat Assessments were completed prior the start of the school year. Additionally, a review of how threat assessment procedures are completed/documented has been undertaken. Law enforcement is part of the Threat Assessment Team at each school allowing for early notification to law enforcement agencies of any possible threat.
- Approximately one thousand (1,000) Code Red trainings have been held in BCPS so far this school year.

Based on the information provided by the Commission and informed by subsequent communications with you, BCPS will be contracting with a third-party investigative agency to undertake further investigations. These investigations will be an independent examination of whether BCPS policies, procedures, professional standards, and quality of service measures were met in matters related to the shooting and the educational history of the shooter. The purpose is to both bring appropriate accountability and to improve the quality of educational services in the safest environment possible. Topics for review are anticipated to include:

- The training of, and staff behavior during, emergency codes situations.
- Specific milestones of the shooter's enrollment in BCPS. These include:
 - Enrollment in the Off-Campus Learning Center programs from February 2017 until the tragedy.
 - Enrollment at Marjory Stoneman Douglas from the initial shared time assignment, to full-time enrollment with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), to enrollment after the student's requested withdrawal from Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services.

Letter to MSD Commission Chair

- This review will include the recommended course assignments, educational supports, the threat assessment based on a concern for self-harm initiated in September 2016, and all disciplinary incidents.
 - The receipt by BCPS staff of, and response to, any formal or informal reports of concern for, or concerns about, the shooter while at Westglades Middle School, Cross Creek School or at Marjory Stoneman Douglas.
 - The process by which the recommendation for a change of placement, initially for shared time and then for full-time enrollment, was made from Cross Creek School to neighborhood boundary school of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- Topics identified in the report completed by the Collaborative Education Network which was provided to the Commission in July 2018.
 - On-going meetings with law enforcement, mental health providers, and other community service providers to eliminate gaps and maximize collaboration.
 - Further topics will be identified upon review of the interim report from this Commission.

I again want to thank the Commission for the opportunity to testify in November and I anticipate providing further updates in subsequent testimony early in 2019. Additionally, thank you and the entire Commission for your work this year. I, and all of Broward County Public Schools, will review and take actions informed by the forthcoming interim Commission Report.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Runcie
Superintendent